

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl'n No.	:	10/054,706	Confirmation No. :	5413
First Named Inventor	:	Alemi et al.		
Filing Date	:	01/24/2002		
Art Unit	:	3696		
Examiner	:	Gottschalk, Martin A.		
Attorney Docket No.	:	GMU-22U		
Customer No.	:	28598		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Examiner:

This response is a reply to the Restriction Requirement dated June 9, 2009. The Restriction Requirement has a shortened statutory period of one month for response that expired on July 9, 2009, and a one-month extension set to expire on August 9, 2009.

Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, Claims 1-6, drawn to a system for analyzing the probability and severity of the occurrence of a single episode, classified in class 705, subclass 2.

The claims in the application involve related, overlapping subject matter, namely identifying episodes of care and measuring the severity of the episodes. The methods used for such identification and measurement rely on an episode classification system to accumulate, group, and analyze health data. Because the methods are so integrated with the episode classification system, Applicants believe it may still be possible to conduct an overall search towards how episodes of care can be analyzed without an undue burden on the examiner. "If the

search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.” See MPEP § 803. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restrictions is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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